



COST-EFFICIENT DESIGN: Natural Stone Oasis, Los Angeles, CA

Debbie Glikzman

FIRM: Urban Oasis Landscape Design, Los Angeles, CA

USDA ZONE: 10b

JUDGES' PERSPECTIVE: Outstanding accomplishment. The colors coordinate beautifully and add vibrancy to the space. Plants are creatively combined to soften the fence and walls and add interest.

An outdated landscape comprised of raised brick beds, worn-out concrete, and overwhelming plantings presented a challenge to Glikzman: how to update the space and make use of an awkwardly-placed pool, while staying environmentally friendly and keeping within a small budget?

She began by replacing the uninspired paving with luxurious, rich red flagstone to add color and warmth to the garden. The perimeter walls were painted a light tone of butter yellow to brighten up the surroundings, and a brimming fountain, fire pit, and small kitchen with a built-in barbecue were added to create an inviting series of spaces for entertaining. Against this stylish backdrop, the drab pool within a sea of concrete has been transformed into an attractive feature of the landscape, and sparkles azure in the sun.

Rather than dumping the old concrete, it was recycled to build a circular garden bench and raised garden beds. The design exploited the varying thickness and texture of the concrete to create a natural stone look. Keeping with the environmentally-minded theme, flagstone was laid on gravel to keep the surfaces permeable, and lawn was removed and replaced with lush, colorful drought-tolerant plants, many of which were recycled from a previous garden or grown from cuttings culled from clients and friends.

Exuberant plantings and creative reuse of materials allowed this garden to shine on a small budget.

